

D-2358

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special Branch REGISTRATION
No. S. B. D. 2358.
Date May 12, 1931.
a/c 12 - 5 - 31.

Subject (in full)

Further Report in re Attached

Made by D. S. Golder

Forwarded by Henry Robertson C.P.S.

From the meagre information at hand regarding the landing of the light aeroplane on the race course on Monday, May 4, it would appear that Robert Short was apprehensive regarding the machine's safety in the Hungjao Aerodrome, and so at about 11.30 a.m. on that day went to the Hungjao Aerodrome with a view to bringing the machine to the Settlement. He apparently is known at the Aerodrome, therefore the soldiers on duty did not take much notice when he entered the hanger in which the plane was stored. From the reports on the matter, he is supposed to have tinkered with the plane for some minutes, then having got the engine running he ran the plane into the open, opened up the engine and took off. The soldiers stationed at the Aerodrome would have undoubtedly stopped him had they thought he was going to take the machine.

Emptek
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Commissioner of Police,

SAC,

Information

J. K. Stevens

O/c Sp. Br.

12:5:31.

Re: 12/5/31

File No. 12/5/31

12:5:31

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai.

12:5: 1931.

To

S I,

Please explain,
if possible, how
Short managed to
get possession of the
plane at the
Kungjiao Aerodrome.

D.S. Golder

Please comply.

H.R. 12/31.

J.P.H.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Special Branch No. 3
No. S. B. D. 2358.
Date May 11, 1931.
a/c 12 - 5 - 31

Subject (in full) Re Landing of Aeroplane on Race Course on

Monday, May 4, 1931.

Made by D. B. Golder

Forwarded by Henry Robertson C.O.I.

The machine which landed on the Race Course about noon on Monday, May 4, is a Kinner Fleet 2 seater 100 H.P. machine, which was flown from the Hungjao Aerodrome by Robert Short, residing at the Foreign Y.M.C.A.

The plane was sent out to China by the manufacturers, the "Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of Buffalo", New York. The machine was taken to Hankow where it was flown by Captain Schumaker, who was sent out here as a demonstration pilot, after leaving Hankow the plane was flown to the Hungjao Aerodrome where it was left pending a decision as to its disposal. In the meantime Captain Schumaker left for the States leaving the ship uncared for. It was Schumaker's intention to attempt the trans-Pacific flight and it is supposed that he has returned to the U.S.A. with intent to find a backer. Mr. Carl Mahnacher of 565 Avenue Foch hearing that the machine had been apparently abandoned on the Race Course went to Mr. Howard, the United States Trade Attaché (Aviation) and informed him that as the representative of the Kinner interests in China, he, Carl Mahnacher, would place the ^{machine} ~~ship~~ in his garage on Avenue Foch pending the arrival of the owner, whose identity is at present not known.

The machine at present is stored in the Mahnacher Garage, Avenue Foch, where it will be held pending payment for the overhauling which is being done.

Em. J. B.
D. B.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai. 9:53 1931.

To

S.I.,

Please make
discreet inquiries
and submit a
short report.



D. S. Toldar,
Please comply.



Burned Oil Line In Gouget Craft Found; Broken Oil Line

PUBLIC INTRIGUED BY PILOT'S APPEARANCE

A trim yellow plane, its fuselage covered with a blue fabric and markings near the cockpit, was found at the Race Course yesterday morning, broken in two places. The engine was still running, and the propeller was moving slowly. No pilot was seen to land or take off, and no one could ascertain the place where it had been parked during the last three days of the Race Meeting, neither of which periods at the course anyone could remember seeing a plane there.

Pilot Unknown.

An inquiry yesterday by a representative of "The Shanghai Times" partly uncovered the mystery, but just what time the plane settled down, or who was the pilot, still remains to be solved.

The plane is a "Fleet" model, owned by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of Buffalo, New York, powered with a Kinner motor, and was sent out to China for disassembled purposes. Capt. Neuhannacher, the American airmen who planned to fly the Pacific and who is now in Japan, is the China agent, and has demonstrated the plane in Nanking and in other cities.

Oil Line Broken.

Few if any of those present at the Race Course on Monday noon noticed the plane land, but land it did before the start of the day's races. However, the pilot did not advertise the fact more than ring up Mr. C. Neuhannacher, well-known local resident and motor expert who is the China agent for the Kinner motor, and inform him that the plane's oil line was broken and would be seen that the necessary repairs were carried out. Mr. Neuhannacher, yesterday stated that he didn't even have time to find out who pilot was.

On questioning where the plane had landed, Mr. Neuhannacher found it difficult, not even the customary aircraft or club police looking around. An inspection revealed that the oil line had been broken, probably caused the forced landing. After inspecting the motor and taking out the broken wire, Mr. Neuhannacher had a gauze placed over the motor and left. Since then the plane has been resting on the Race Course unattended, and until the last day or two, without attracting considerable注意.

Oil Line Repaired.

The broken oil line has been repaired and will be installed in a day or so, according to the sudden state of the aircraft at the Race Course. If he can find the pilot, the owner of the plane will attempt to get him to fly more days.

109
117

**AT RACE COURSE**

Mr. Schumacher, pilot, said he had been flying over the Yangtze River and had to make a forced landing because his engine was out of oil. He said he had been flying from Nanking to Shanghai and had to land at the Hungtse Aerodrome, but had to return to the race course because he had run out of fuel. He said he had been flying for many hours and he had run out of fuel.

The pilot was reported to be the one who was forced down at midnight on Monday at the Race Course in "Tiger" racing plane owned by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of Buffalo, N. Y. The forced descent was due to a broken oil line.

It was revealed yesterday to a representative of "The Shanghai Times," that the plane had been left some time ago at the Hungtse Aerodrome by Capt. Schumacher, the American aviator who announced his intention to fly the Pacific. Capt. Schumacher, it was stated, left the plane at the aerodrome on his departure for Japan. The latest information regarding him was that he had arrived in San Francisco on April 27.

The officials at the Hungtse Aerodrome gave instructions that the plane was not to be flown without express permission. Shortly before noon on Monday, it is reported, a foreigner, dressed in mafu, was observed examining the plane.

The Chinese guards on duty paid little attention, even when the plane came to life with a roar, ran down the field for some distance and then climbed up in the

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 8.)

**CHINESE SEEK PILOT
ON U. S. PLANE**

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 8.) direction of Shanghai. Not until the plane was a mere speck in the sky did the officials realize what had happened.

The pilot landed just as quietly as he had departed and no sooner had his craft come to rest on the Race Course than he was out and away. No one appears to have paid any particular attention to him.

Mr. C. Nahmmacher, local garage owner and local agent for the Kinner motor, with which the plane is powered, received a telephone call on Monday informing him that a broken fuel line in the plane needed repairing. Who called him up he did not know, and is still in the dark.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Nahmmacher and a crew of employees were busily engaged in dismantling the plane, and about 2 p.m. had it towed to his garage for repairs. The local garage owner is puzzled as to who will eventually get the plane, and as to who the pilot was, but, as he said yesterday:

"Well, all I know is that the motor needs going over and the oil line needs repairing, and as the local agent for the Kinner motor, I'll see that this is done."

9/5/-